

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**SB 983 - HB 817**

March 19, 2001

**SUMMARY OF BILL:**

- Deletes provision making it mandatory for anyone who has knowledge of child abuse to report the abuse to authorities.
- Makes mandatory reporting apply to the occupational classifications listed in current law and makes reporting child abuse permissive for other persons not included in the occupational listing.
- Gives absolute immunity from civil or criminal liability to professionals who make child abuse reports and good faith presumption for other persons except the perpetrator.

Under current law, there is a presumption of good faith and immunity as long as good faith is apparent for any person making a report of child abuse.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease State Expenditures - \$23,100/Incarceration\***  
**Decrease Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant**  
**Decrease Local Govt. Revenues - Not Significant**

Estimate assumes a decrease in convictions for child neglect (Class A misdemeanor and Class D felony) and failure to protect (Class C felony) when child abuse reporting is made permissive for *neighbor, relative, friend or any other person*.

*\*Section 9-4-210, TCA, requires that: For any law enacted after July 1, 1986, which results in a net increase in periods of imprisonment in state facilities, there shall be appropriated from recurring revenues the estimated operating cost of such law. The amount appropriated for operating cost, in current dollars, shall be based upon the highest cost of the next 10 years, beginning with the year the additional sentence to be served impacts the correctional facilities population.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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